His Majesties
GRACIOUS
SPEECH
Together with the
Lord Keepers,
To both HOUSES of
PARLIAMENT.
On *Wednesday* the 13th. of *October*, 1675.

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His *Majesties* Gracious *Speech* to both Houses of Parliment, on *Wednesday Octob:* 13. 1675

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Meet you now with a more then usual concern for the Event of this Session, And I know it is but what may reasonably be expected from that Care I owe to the preservation of the Government. The causes of the last Prorogation, as I for My part do not desire to remember, so I hope no man else will, unless it be to learn from thence, how to avoid the like occations for the future, And I pray consider how fatal the consequences may be, and how litle benefit is like to redound to the People by it: However, if any thing of that kind shall arise, I desire you would deferre those debates, till you have brought such publick Bills to perfection as may conduce to the good and safety of the Kingdom; And particularly I recommend to you, whatever may tend to the security of the Protestant Religion as it is now established in the Church of England.

I must likewise desire your assistance in some Supplies, as well to take off the Anticipations which are upon my Revenue, as for the building of Ships; and though the War has been the great cause of these Anticipations, yet I find by a late account I have taken of My *Expences, that I have not been altogether so good a husband, as I might have been, and as I resolve to be for the future: Although at the same time I have had the satisfaction to find, that I have been far from such an extravagancy in* My *own Expence, as some would have the world to believe. I am not ignorant, that there are many who would prevent the kindness of My Parliament to Me at this time; but I as well know that your affections have never failed me: And you may remember, it is now above Three years since I have asked you any thing for My Own use.*

The rest I refer to my Lord Keeper.

THE

The Lord Keeper's SPEECH.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons,

THe Causes of this present Assembly, and the Reasons which have mov'd His Majesty to command your Attendance upon Him at this Time, are of the highest Importance. The King resolves to enter into Termes of strictest Correspondence and Endearment with His Parliament, To take your Counsel in His most Weighty Affairs; To impart all His cares to you, To acquaint you with all His Wants and Necessities, To offer you all that can yet be wanting to make you enjoy your selves, To Establish a right understanding Between Himself and His Three Estates, and Between the Estates themselves, To redress all your Just complaints, and To put all His Subjects at Ease, as far as in Him lies, and can consist with the Honour and the Safety of the Government.

And having made all these Advances towards you, He doubts not but you will behave your selves like those that Deserve to be called the *Kings* Friends, and that you will put Him at Ease too.

There is no cause why any Fears of Religion or Liberty should Divert you.

For, His Majesty hath so often recommended to you the Considerations of Religion, so very often desir'd you to Assist Him in His care and Protection of it, That the Defender of the Faith is become the Advocate for it too, and hath Left all those without Excuse who still remain under any kind of doubts or Fears.

Again, The care of your civil Rights and Liberties hath been so much His Majesties, that the more you Reflect upon these *C*oncernes the more you will find your selves oblig'd to acknowledg His Majesties Tenderness of you and Indulgence to you.

Search your own Annals, the *A*nnals of those Times you account most happy, you will scarce find one Year without an example of something more

more ſevere, and more extraordinary, than a whole Reign hath yet produced.

Peruſe the Hiſtories of Forreign Nations, and you ſhall find, Statues, and Altars too have been Erected to the memories of thoſe Princes, whoſe beſt virtues never arrived to half that moderation, which we Live to ſee and to enjoy.

No King did ever meet a Parliament with Juſter cauſe of confidence in their affections.

And therefore His Majeſty will not ſuffer Himſelf to doubt, but relies firmly upon it that you will never forſake him, when he is under any kind of difficulties. He doth aſſure Himſelf that you will now think fit to provide for his Honor and your own ſafety, by helping Him to pay ſome part of His Debts, and to make His Navy as Great and as conſiderable, as it ought to be.

For the greatneſs of a King is the Greatneſs & the ſafety of His People. The Springs and Rivers which pay Tribute to the Ocean, do not leſſen but preſerve themſelves by that contribution.

It is impoſſible that thoſe affections which Piety and Allegiance firſt planted, which Perſecution could not abate, which the gracious influence of his Majeſties happy Government have hitherto encreaſed, ſhould now appear to wither and decay.

But then the beſt indication of the Heart is by the hand: And becauſe it is of infinite moment to the Kings affairs that there ſhould be a cheerful concurrence to his ſupply, Therefore let Hand and Heart both joyn together in the oblation, for that will make it a Sacrifice well pleaſing indeed.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

The happineſs of this preſent Age, and the fate and fortune of the Next too, is very much in your hands and at this time, all that you would deſire to ſettle and improve, all that you would wiſh to ſecure and tranſmit to your poſterities, may now be accompliſhed.

Would you raiſe the due Eſtimation and Reverence of the Church of *England* to its juſt height? Would you provide for the ſafety and Eſtabliſhment of it?

Do there want any Laws to ſecure the Peace and Quiet of the State.

Wou'd you at once enrich and adorn this Kingdom, by providing for the extent and improvement of Trade, by introducing New and uſeful Manufactures, and by encourageing thoſe we have already?

Would you prevent all frauds and perjuries, all delays and abuſes in the adminiſtration of juſtice?

Would you preſerve a famous City from being Depopulated by the Suburbs, would you reſtrain the exceſs of thoſe New Buildings which begin to ſwarm with Inhabitants unknown?

All your Petitions of this kind will be Grateful to the King, and you may with eaſe effect all this and much more which your great Wiſdoms will ſuggeſt to you. A little time will ſerve to make many excellent Laws, and to give you the Honor of being the repairers of all our Breaches, ſo as that time be wholy imployed upon the Publiqne, and not taken up by ſuch Conſiderations as are leſs Meritorious.

If therefore there be any without doors, that Labour to diſunite your Councils, or to render them ineffectual, if they can hope that the occaſions for this may ariſe from ſome differences within your ſelves or hope by thoſe differences to diſguiſe their own diſaffections to your good proceedings; 'Tis in your power to defeat thoſe hopes, to pull off this diſguiſe, and to ſecure a happy concluſion of this meeting, by Studying to preſerve a good Correſpondence, and by a careful avoiding of all ſuch Queſtions as are apt to engender ſtrife.

And if ever there were a time, when the Gravity and the Council, the Wiſdom, and the good Temper of a Parliament, were neceſſary to ſupport that Government which onely can ſupport theſe Aſſemblies, certainly this is the Hour.

You ſee with what Zeal the King hath recommended to you a good agreement between your ſelves, and that he doth it with all the care and compaſſion, all the earneſtneſs and importunity, fit for ſo great a prince to expreſs, who would be very ſorry that any ſuch misfortune as your diſagreement. ſhould either deprive Him of your advice and aſſiſtance, or His People of thoſe good Laws which he is ready to Grant you.

There

There is no other way Our enemies can think of, by which 'tis possible for this Sessions to miscarry, for Fears and Jealousies cannot enter here, Calumnies and Slanders will find no place amongst Wise and Good men.

They that use these arts abroad will quickly be discredited, when the world shall see the generous effects of your confidence. Men will despair of attempting any disturbance in the state, when they see every step that tends that way, serves only to give you fresh occasions to testifie your Loyalty and your Zeal.

You have all the reason in the world to make men see this, for you have the same Monarchy to assert, the same Church to defend, the same interests of Nobility and Gentry to maintain, the same Excellent King to contend for, and the same enemies to contend against.

And now My Lords and Gentlemen,

Since the whole Session of Parliament is in the Judgment and construction of our Law but as one day, Let us all endeavour that the morning of it, the first entrance upon it, may be with such fair and such auspicious circumstances as may give the whole Kingdom an assurance of a bright and cheerful day.

Let no ill humors gather into Clouds to darken or obscure it, for this day is a critical day, and more depends upon that Judgment of our affairs which will be made by it, then can easily be imagined.

It imports us therefore to take care that no part of this time be lost, Let every precious Minute of this Day be spent in receiving such acts of Grace and Goodness as are ready to flow from the King, and in making such Retributions for them as may become the Grateful Hearts of the best of Subjects, to the best of Kings.

So shall this day become a day of disapointment and discomfort to our Enemies, but to us and all good men a Glorious day, a day of Triumph and deliverance, a memorable and a joyful day to this present and to all future Generations.

FINIS.